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1950 ACHIEVEMENTS IN SHELTER-BELT PLANTING IN USSR

The Council of Ministers USSR and TsK VKP(b) have taken cognizance of the fact that the kolkhozes, sovkhoses, forest managements, shelter-belt stations, and machine-tractor stations are successfully carrying out the decree of 20 October 1948 entitled "Plan for Planting Shelter Belts, Introducing Grass Field Rotation, and Constructing Ponds and Reservoirs in the Interest of Assuring Large and Uniform Harvests in the Steppe and Forest Steppe Regions of the European USSR."

Up to the end of 1949, the kolkhozes, sovkhoses, and forest managements of the steppe and forest steppe regions of the European USSR had planted 590,000 hectares of shelter belts, of which 373,400 hectares were planted in 1949. The 1949 planting was done as follows: 152,200 hectares, or 189.1 percent of plan, by kolkhozes; 205,800 hectares, or 110.3 percent of plan, by forest managements; and 15,400 hectares, or 192.4 percent of plan, by sovkhoses.

1950 Improvement Over 1949

In 1950, up to 15 April, 306,800 hectares, or 44 percent of the 1950 plan, had been planted. This figure includes: 140,000 hectares, or 40 percent of their 1950 plan, planted by kolkhozes; 135,200 hectares, or 44.3 percent of their 1950 plan, by forest managements; 17,700 hectares, or 59 percent of their 1950 plan, by sovkhoses; and 13,900 hectares, or 95 percent of the 1950 plan, of oak plantings in Stalingrad, Astrakhan, and Rostov oblasts.

A study of the records of the Main Administration for Shelter-Belt Planting attached to the Council of Ministers USSR, Ministry of Agriculture USSR, Ministry of Forestry USSR, Ministry of Sovkhoses USSR, and of local soviets and party organs shows the following information concerning the various aspects of the Stalin Transformation of Nature Plan:

Creation of State Shelter Belts

By 15 April 1950, 11,800 hectares of land had been selected for state shelter belts. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Forestry USSR made technical plans

- 1 -

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for planting the state shelter belts. For purposes of technical planning, the ministry made soil studies on areas exceeding 400,000 hectares, 18,000 soil profiles, and more than 5,000 soil analyses.

For accomplishing the planting work itself, shelter-belt stations, forest managements, and state tree nurseries were organized and outfitted with tractors and special agricultural machinery and equipment. They began planting work in 1949 and prepared soil for planting in 1950. Most successful in their work were shelter-belt stations in Rostov, Stalino, Stalingrad, Voronezh, and Astrakhan oblasts. Komsomolsk organizations of these oblasts and of Chkalov and West Kazakhstan oblasts took an active interest in the creation of state shelter belts. At the same time, some shelter-belt stations and forest managements of the Ministry of Forestry USSR in Stalingrad, Saratov, and Chkalov oblasts failed to meet their 1949 planting and soil-preparation plans.

Creation of Field Shelter Belts on Kolkhozes, Sovkhozes, and State Forest Preserve Lands

How the 1949 field shelter-belt planting plans were met in the various oblasts, krais, and republics is shown in the following table:

	Area Planted (ha)	1949 Plan Fulfill- ment (%)	Plan Fulfillment (%)		
			By Kol- khozes	By Timber Managements	By Sov- khozes
Voronezh Oblast	18,810	112	118	107	170
Kursk "	16,390	119	138	101	--
Orel "	12,080	144	185	105	160
Tambov "	13,010	107	110	102	120
Ryazan "	7,590	138	268	125	--
Tula "	3,630	140	200	125	120
Mordov ASSR	8,390	142	326	104	--
Astrakhan Oblast	4,010	201	108	237	160
Kuybyshev "	11,820	130	181	101	300
Saratov "	10,930	126	146	111	183
Chkalov "	10,760	136	164	107	170
Stalingrad "	20,340	208	393	108	308
Chukotka ASSR	15,510	151	281	116	255
Ul'yanovsk Oblast	10,860	131	251	113	190
Tatar ASSR	15,020	188	381	121	280
Penza Oblast	8,060	134	289	102	--
Krasnodar Kray	17,130	276	345	127	206
Rostov Oblast	18,530	138	196	95	134
Stavropol' Kray	18,910	167	267	104	214
Groznyy Oblast	2,520	140	208	104	230
Crimea Oblast	5,760	120	128	101	290
Ukrainian SSR	123,340	121	150	112	170

Along with the planting of new shelter belts in 1949, the kolkhozes, sovkhoses, and timber managements restored 16,000 hectares of belts planted in former years and did supplementary planting on 132,000 hectares.

More than 70,000 kolkhoz and sovkhos workers and 16,000 forest management workers received training in planting and caring for shelter belts. Many thousands of other workers received specialized training in schools.

- 2 -

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The 1950 shelter-belt planting plan calls for the planting of 350,000 hectares by the Ministry of Agriculture USSR, 30,000 by the Ministry of Sovkhoses USSR, and 320,000 hectares by the Ministry of Forestry USSR. The last figure includes 21,000 hectares of state shelter belts and 73,000 hectares of sands which are to be afforested.

Distribution of the 1950 plan according to republics, krays, and oblasts is as follows (in hectares to be planted):

	<u>By Kolkhozes</u>	<u>By Sovkhoses</u>	<u>By Ministry of Forestry USSR</u>
Voronezh Oblast	20,000	570	17,000
Kursk "	19,000	100	17,550
Orel "	13,500	230	9,800
Tambov "	14,000	300	12,500
Ryazan "	10,000	20	6,670
Tula "	8,500	130	3,700
Mordov ASSR	6,000	30	7,200
Astrakhan Oblast	1,500	300	9,770
Kuybyshev "	16,000	1,310	9,000
Saratov "	17,000	2,320	11,560
Chkalov "	10,500	2,850	6,400
Stalingrad "	20,000	2,450	23,050
Bashkir ASSR	13,000	1,130	11,100
Ul'yanovsk Oblast	10,500	500	9,500
Tatar ASSR	16,000	455	7,600
Penza Oblast	11,000	100	6,650
Krasnodar Kray	20,000	2,800	2,200
Rostov Oblast	21,000	3,955	19,550
Stavropol' Kray	14,500	2,130	7,500
Groznyy Oblast	3,000	290	2,600
Crimea Oblast	5,000	750	3,700
Ukrainian SSR	80,000	7,280	114,300
Kazakh SSR	--	--	1,100

Afforestation of Sands

In 1949, sand afforestation was carried out on 32,800 hectares, or 146 percent of plan, by the forest managements and shelter-belt stations of the Ministry of Forestry USSR. This work was most successful in the Ukrainian SSR, Voronezh, Astrakhan, Stalingrad, and Groznyy oblasts, and Stavropol' Kray.

The 1950 sand afforestation plan is divided according to republics, krays, and oblasts as follows:

	<u>Hectares to be afforested</u>
Voronezh Oblast	6,300
Kursk "	3,800
Orel "	800
Tambov "	3,600
Ryazan "	800
Mordov ASSR	600
Astrakhan Oblast	6,300
Kuybyshev "	1,400
Saratov "	2,100
Chkalov "	100
Stalingrad "	3,300
Bashkir ASSR	300

- 3 -

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Hectares to be afforested

Ul'yanovsk Oblast	500
Tatar ASSR	400
Penza Oblast	300
Rostov Oblast	3,400
Stavropol' Kray	3,100
Groznyy Oblast	1,900
Ukrainian SSR	34,000

Seed Procurement and Growing of Planting Stock
in State, Kolkhoz, and Sovkhoz Nurseries

Collection of bush and tree seed in 1949 for the plan in meeting the 1950 planting plan totaled 67,200 tons, or 127 percent of plan, including 61,500 tons of acorns, or 123.1 percent of plan.

In 1949, more than 6 billion pieces of nursery stock or 110 percent of plan, were grown in the nurseries of the steppe and forest steppe regions of the European USSR. Of this number, 3.5 billion were primary species seedlings, including more than 0.5 billion oak seedlings.

The 1950 seed-collection plan calls for the gathering of 89,500 tons of seeds, including 80,000 tons of acorns. Of these seeds, the Ministry of Forestry USSR is to collect 46,900 tons, including 41,000 tons of acorns, the Ministry of Agriculture USSR 37,000 tons, including 35,000 tons of acorns, the Ministry of Sovkhozes USSR 4,600 tons, including 4,000 tons of acorns, and the Ministry of Food Industry USSR 1,000 tons of fruit seeds.

Carrying Out of Basic Agricultural Measures

In 1949, the kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the steppe and forest steppe regions of the European USSR sowed perennial grasses on areas totaling 2,400,000 hectares, or almost twice as many hectares as in 1948. They plowed 24 percent more land in 1949 than in 1948. They met the 1949 clean fallow plowing plan 101 percent.

Development of Irrigation and Construction of Ponds and Reservoirs

Up to 15 April 1950, 55,000 hectares of land in the central chernozem Kursk, Voronezh, Orel, and Tambov oblasts had been prepared for irrigation and equipped with irrigation systems. In the other steppe and forest steppe regions of the European USSR, 67,700 hectares of land had been prepared for irrigation. A total of 4,579 ponds and reservoirs, an increase of 1,767 over 1948, had been built and 3,658 had been completely rebuilt or restored. Surveys had been completed for 5,376 ponds and reservoirs to be built in 1950 and technical planning completed for 4,010 of them.

In 1949, a total of 826 ponds and reservoirs were either built, rebuilt, or restored in Saratov Oblast; this figure includes 599 new ones, and compares with a total of 164 called for by the plan. The kolkhozes and sovkhoses of Rostov Oblast either built, rebuilt, or restored 303 reservoirs; this figure compares with 209 called for by the plan. The kolkhozes and sovkhoses of Ryazan Oblast built 354 and rebuilt 561 reservoirs.

The 1950 plan to be met by the Ministries of Agriculture, Sovkhozes, and Forestry USSR calls for the construction of 7,085 ponds and reservoirs on the kolkhozes and 502 on the sovkhoses.

- 4 -
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Mechanization of Agricultural Work, Tree Planting,
and Pond and Reservoir Construction

In 1949, 119 shelter-belt stations were organized. They are staffed with more than 1,500 engineering and technical workers and 7,500 tractor drivers, machine operators, and other workers.

The shelter-belt stations of the Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry USSR are equipped with 5,139 tractors of all types, 5,143 tractor plows, 4,095 cultivators, 3,694 tree-planting machines, 801 trucks, 294 mobile repair shops, 472 earthmoving machines, and other equipment.

The 1950 plan calls for the establishment of 191 shelter-belt stations, 80 by the Ministry of Agriculture USSR and 111 by the Ministry of Forestry USSR.

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- 5 -

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